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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/856,233	08/16/2001	Jun Hirai	SONYJP-127	6620

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EXAMINER

SHENG, TOM V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2673

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/856,233

Applicant(s)

HIRAI, JUN

Examiner

Tom V Sheng

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-6 in Paper No. 13 is acknowledged.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: "said apparatus" of claim 3 lines 4-5 does not correspond to "said plurality of apparatuses" of claim 1 lines 8-9. The examiner recommends changing "said apparatus" to "one of said plurality of apparatuses." Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As for claim 1, recitation "memory means for storing said plurality of apparatuses connected to said network" (lines 4-5) cannot be ascertained because memory does not store any apparatus. The connecting state or the state of connection is needed also in order to clearly define the above recitation.

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As for claim 2, recitations "said memory means also stores an apparatus disconnected from said network" (lines 2-3) have the same issue as claim 1.

As for claim 5, recitations "a storage of said plurality of apparatuses" (line 5) and "said plurality of apparatuses stored" (line 9-10) has the same issue as claim 1.

As for claim 6, recitations "a storage of said plurality of apparatuses" (lines 7-8) and "said plurality of apparatuses stored" (lines 12-13) have the same issue as claim 1.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. (US 6480889 B1) in view of Ikonen et al. (US 6473078 B1).

As for claim 1, Saito teaches an information processing apparatus (figure 3; PC 35) connected to a plurality of apparatuses (various devices connected to outlets 11 to 15, each is being one IEEE 1394 node) through a network (figure 3 shows 13 IEEE nodes on a IEEE bus that constitutes the network; see figure 3, column 7, lines 10-41), comprising:

a memory means for storing said plurality of apparatuses connected to said network (each node has a configuration memory that stores information specifying a

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type or specification of a device connected and the physical location as well. See figure 4, and column 8, lines 16-26).

Saito also teaches that the PC 35 can display, after recognizing the device attribute of each node from the configuration memories, the devices connected as well as respective location of each. See figure 5, and column 9, line 47 to column 10, line 7.

Saito does not teach controlling a display of a current supply mode, a standby mode, or a current non-supply mode of said plurality of apparatuses stored in said memory means so that said modes can be distinguished.

Ikonen teaches power management in an integrated display unit having components/peripheral devices such as audio amplifier, speakers, microphone, camera and telephone handset, as well as the video display. Specifically, by detecting signals from the display and the peripheral devices, power consumption can be controlled accordingly. See Table 3, column 3, line 14 to column 4, line 40.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Ikonen's power management method into Saito's home network such that power consumption of devices can be controlled, displayed, and distinguished accordingly because of the advantage in power saving.

As for claim 3, Ikonen's power management reads the power input instructing means.

As for claim 4, Saito's home network is an IEEE 1394 serial bus.

The method claim 5 and computer-readable recording medium claim 6 correspond directly to apparatus claim 1 and is rejected as analyzed in claim 1 above.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito and Ikonen as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Nio et al. (JP 10-155121).

As to claim 2, Saito as modified teaches keeping track of and displaying devices connected to a network.

Saito does not teach wherein said memory means also stores an apparatus disconnected from said network.

Nio teaches a display unit connected to an IEEE 1394 bus that also has other devices connected. In one embodiment, Nio teaches using a memory 12 (drawing 4; paragraphs 12 and 13 of Detailed Description) that stores a history of a bus operation. By memorizing the history of the connection state of the IEEE bus, the history of an electronic device connected can be checked (drawing 5; paragraphs 14-16). One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that from the history, the device that used to be connected but not anymore can also be tracked.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Nio's memory into Saito's PC 35 so that even disconnected devices can be displayed and distinguished, because of the advantage of maintaining a simple visual connection history of the devices.

### ***Conclusion***


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom V Sheng whose telephone number is (703) 305-6708. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (703) 305-4938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

TS  
October 16, 2003

  
KENT CHANG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER